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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Arctic)

REPORT

SUBJECT Port of Mezen

DATE DISTR.

6 JAN 1955

25X1

DATE OF INFO.

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REQUIREMENT

REFERENCES

This is UNEVALUATED

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. While en route to Mezen in the early morning of 31 July 1954, [redacted] ship passed a submarine in the area outside Cape Teriberskiy (N 69-18, E 35-15). On the forenoon of 31 July, a Catalina-type aircraft flew westward from the area outside Bolshoy Oleniy Island (N 69-13, E 33-29). 25X1

2. On 1 August, a patrol boat was observed at anchor outside Mezen; two days later a similar or the same patrol craft was observed coming from Mezen and heading downriver. The patrol craft was long and low; it had a three foot freeboard at the lowest point. Three guns covered with tarpaulins were located on the deck; [redacted] they were 20 mm semi-automatic guns. No torpedos were observed on deck. 25X1

3. Radar or radio masts were observed on the northeasterly and southwesterly points of Morzhovets Island (N 66-38, E 42-30). On the top of each mast there was a small round or elliptical object. Similar masts were observed on the east side of the river slightly north of the city of Mezen; one of the masts was located inland southwest of the pilot buoy. There were also several other masts along the west side of the Mezen River. More exact positions could not be given. 25X1

4. Both pontoon quays at Kamenka (N 65-53, E 44-06) were T-shaped. From the river bank, there was a row of 12 pontoons; at the end of the row, three pontoons had been placed perpendicular to the others. A deck of heavy planks had been placed over and between the pontoons. The river bank consisted of brown sand; it was steep and without vegetation. At the outside pontoon quay [redacted] ship rested on the bottom after loading to a depth of 13 feet, 6 inches. It was said that the water was slightly deeper at the other quay. 25X1

5. Each afternoon, a DC-3 aircraft arrived from the north or northwest and landed in the area north of the city of Mezen.

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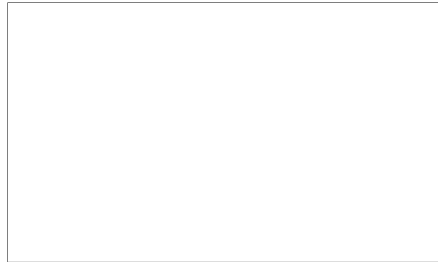
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-2-

6. At the time of departure on 9 August, the greatest depth was 14 feet, 4 inches. During high tide the ship touched bottom at the outside bar in position N 65-58, E 44-04. It was necessary to return and await the next high tide which permitted passage of this bar and a second one in position N 66-05, E 44-00. A new high tide was necessary in order to clear the bar outside the river, northwest of the pilot buoy.



25X1

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